

REMARKS

In the Advisory Action mailed July 23, 2007, 2007 the Examiner noted that claims 1-18 were pending and maintained the rejection of claims 1-18. Claims 1, 9 and 17 have been amended, no claims have been canceled, new claim 19 has been added and, thus, in view of the forgoing claims 1-19 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-12, 14 and 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kikuchi. Claims 5, 7, 13 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Kikuchi in view of Aubel.

Kikuchi discusses the compaction of components on a printed circuit board.

The present claims are to a design apparatus that performs the design by calculating the contour of a component region on a printed circuit board. In particular, as discussed on application page 13, the user selectively designates a layout distance common to all the components or a unique layout distance ("the layout distance between two of the plurality of components is selectively one of a common distance of all components and a unique distance" - claim 1).

Kikuchi does not teach or suggest such.

Aubel adds nothing to Kikuchi with respect to the above-discussed feature.

Claims 9 and 17, which have a different scope, also emphasize a similar feature.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

New claim 19 emphasizes calculating and displaying a contour for a plurality of components using component contour information and a layout distance between two of the plurality of components, the layout distance is designated by the user as a common distance of all components or a user designated distance. Nothing in the prior art teaches or suggests such. It is submitted that this new claim, which is different and not narrower than prior filed claims, distinguishes over the prior art.

It is submitted that the claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. It is also submitted that claims 1-19 are allowable. It is further submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the U.S.P.T.O. is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: August 21, 2007

By: /J. Randall Beckers/
J. Randall Beckers
Registration No. 30,358

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501